Dear Representative:

As your constituent, I urge you to oppose Governor Wolf’s proposal to divert millions of dollars of dedicated state funding for park and recreation projects in order to fund general government operations. General government operations have been traditionally—and properly paid for out of the General Fund budget.

The General Assembly created the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund (Keystone Fund), and the Environmental Stewardship Fund, to provide a dedicated, consistent stream of funding for a wide range of conservation and environmental projects. Polling shows that dedicated funding for the Keystone Fund and the Environmental Stewardship Fund is widely and consistently supported by the citizens of Pennsylvania.

These dedicated funding sources are critical to supporting multi-year projects such as the construction of trails and the rehabilitation of parks. These projects generally have matching funds from local governments and a wide-range partners in our community.

Every dollar in state grants from these programs leverages at least one dollar in local matching investments, and often much more. By diverting funds from these programs and these multi-year projects, the Commonwealth would be retreating from its commitment to our communities and setting a dangerous precedent.

Funding for parks and recreation is a wise investment in the health and well-being of citizens of all ages, and in the economic vitality and quality of life of our communities. I urge you to oppose this harmful raid on dedicated funding for park and recreation projects, and to properly fund governmental operations out of the General Fund budget.

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